



National Transportation Safety Board

The Chairman's Corner

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Friday, May 6, 2005



Mark Rosenker at the Vehicle Research Center with Joseph Nolan (right), Vice President of the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety.

NTSB Visits the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety

Acting Chairman Mark Rosenker along with five NTSB staff were invited last week to observe a side impact crash test at the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety Test Facility. The test featured a new 2005 automobile being struck at 31 MPH by a sled, simulating a large SUV in weight and configuration.

The Institute routinely conducts these tests and rates various makes and models in a number of areas including how they resist passenger compartment penetration and how well the side curtain air bags deploy to protect the head and mitigate the injuries caused by the accident.

The Board's recommendations in partnership with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety have had a significant impact on the safety of those using America's highways.

Also observing were; Dwight Foster and Dennis Collins from the Office of Highway Safety, April Adams, Derrek Hofrichter and Tom Doyle.

Chairman-Designate Ellen Engleman Conners Visits Kentucky and Indiana

Chairman-designate Ellen Engleman Conners served as the keynote speaker for the Kentucky Lifesavers Conference in Louisville, Kentucky on Tuesday, April 26. Her remarks focused on the four key initiatives needed to address the alarmingly high loss of life on Kentucky's highways: primary safety belt enforcement, improved child passenger protection, graduated driver licensing and reducing hard core drinking drivers. Engleman Conners encouraged the audience, including several members of the Governor's Executive Committee on Highway Safety, to make the four initiatives a political priority.

On Wednesday, April 27, the Chairman-designate met with Indiana Attorney General Steve Carter at the state capitol in Indianapolis, Indiana to advocate for transportation safety measures and to encourage him to make transportation safety a focus of the National Association of Attorneys General's national agenda in the coming year. (A.G. Carter is the president-elect of the NAAG.) While in the Indiana state capitol, Engleman Conners met with members of the state legislature to promote the Board's safety mission and initiatives.

Upcoming Board Meeting on FedEx Cargo Accident in Memphis, Tennessee

The Safety Board will hold a public Board meeting on Tuesday, May 17 on the December 18, 2003, Federal Express Corporation all-cargo flight 647 that crashed while landing at Memphis International Airport. Following the crash, the right main landing gear of the Boeing MD 10 -10F collapsed and there was a post-crash fire. There were two crewmen and five nonrevenue FedEx pilots aboard the airplane. The first officer and one nonrevenue pilot received minor injuries during the evacuation. Joe Sedor is the IIC. The meeting begins at 9:30 a.m. and is available on worldwide webcast.



NTSB Completes Accident Investigation Workshop in Zhuhai, China



The 2-week "Accident Investigation Workshop" in Zhuhai, China was a complete success. All objectives were met. The benefits of the event are significant. There were no problems. Details are as follows:

Background

The "workshop" was somewhat of a follow-on to the 2-week Accident Investigation Course that was provided to the Chinese two months ago at the NTSB Academy. (During the Academy training, about 16 managers from the Chinese Civil Aviation Authority Committee (CAAC) attended that course, which was coordinated by Bob Macintosh, Chief Technical Advisor for International Affairs in the Office of Aviation Safety. About 25 topics were covered, most with a different instructor from the various divisions of the Safety Board.) Due to the success of that course, and requests for

a similar course to be held in China in order to capture a larger audience, it was decided that it would be in the Board's best interest to provide a similar course in China. Additionally, a separate effort to host an accident investigation workshop in China had already been initiated by Keith McGuire, Regional Director of the NTSB Northwest Regional Office, last fall. Keith had been working with Mr. Len Cormier of the International Civil Aviation Organization's (ICAO) Cooperative Development of Operational Safety and Continuing Airworthiness Program in North Asia (COSCAP-NA).

With Len and Keith's help, an agreement was made with the CAAC in which they would provide air transportation to China (via China Southern Airlines, which is owned and operated by the CAAC) for up to six NTSB instructors, in return for classroom instruction regarding major aviation accident investigation for CAAC inspectors and managers. Based on feedback received from the Chinese during January's course at the NTSB Academy, an enhanced course curriculum was developed. Several training modules were added (photography, manufacturer support, flight simulators, go-bag equipment, on-site safety, on-site management), to the same curriculum that was provided in January, along with 14 detailed case studies and 4 hands-on exercises (press conference, photography, launching a go-team, go-bag tool and personal protective equipment).

Course Curriculum and NTSB Instructor Selection

Due to the constraint of having only six instructors, the course curriculum was shared among six hand-picked NTSB employees who had the breadth of knowledge to teach various topics. The following people were chosen:

Bob Benzon – Major Accident Investigation Management, Transportation Disaster Assistance, Air Carrier Flight Operations Investigations, AA587 Case Study; Little Rock Case Study, AA587 Case Study.

Vern Ellingstad – Flight Recorders, Metallurgy, Fire & Explosion, Medical & Pathological Issues, Human Performance Factors, TWA 800 Case Study, Alaska Airlines Case Study.

Jeff Guzzetti – Investigation Rules and Practices, Media Affairs, Airport Investigations, Survival Factors, Accident Site Management, Meteorology, Air Traffic Investigations, Systems, Structures, Powerplants, Maintenance Records.

Bob Macintosh – Report Writing, Recommendations, International Investigations, Roles of Manufacturer, Use of Flight Simulators, Lauda Air Case Study, Birginair Case Study.

Keith McGuire – General Aviation Accidents and Reports, Accident Site Photography, Investigative Supplies, Biohazards and Site Safety, Taking Pictures Exercise.

John O'Callaghan – Aircraft Performance, including Aircraft Icing, Simulation Tools, Radar Data Analysis, Wind Derivation, Trajectory Analysis, Flight Recorder Data.



Jeff Guzzetti, NTSB Deputy Director for Regional Operations for AS, shakes hands with Deputy Director General Wang Zhaoming of the Civil Aviation Authority of China, after presiding over the graduation ceremony in which 64 Chinese aviation officials underwent 2 weeks of NTSB accident investigation training.



The Students

There were a total of 64 students. The breakdown of the students is as follows:

43 were deputy regional directors or inspectors from various CAAC regional and headquarters offices; 3 were Korean investigators, 2 were Mongolian investigators, 3 were Boeing-China employees who also served as interpreters; and there were 2 – 4 safety officials from each of the following airlines: Air China, Hainan Airways, China Eastern Airlines, China Southern Airlines, Korean Airlines.

Facilities

The course was held at a modern flight training facility operated by China Southern Airlines.

Call for Papers



Volume 1, Issue 1 of the NTSB Journal of Accident Investigation was released in March 2005. The Editorial Board is currently accepting submissions for the next volume of this biannual publication. Submissions should be sent to Deborah Bruce in RE-10.

The Journal will publish research and technical papers on accident investigation that may be of interest to professionals in safety, accident investigation, engineering and the behavioral sciences. Papers may be empirical or concerned with the development and use of accident investigation methods, techniques or technologies. All papers should have a strong scientific or technical basis, and be related to accident investigation or transportation safety analysis.

Organization of material for empirical investigations should follow standard reporting format; problem, method, results, discussion, and summary. Papers discussing accident investigative methods, techniques or technologies should also begin with a statement of the problem in terms of accident investigation and transportation safety, and include the rationale for developing the approach. The discussion should also include a clear and concise description of the method, technique, or technology that uses accident data and information to illustrate the approach, and a discussion of the added benefit the approach brings to accident investigation or transportation safety analysis.

The NTSB Journal will also publish papers describing public forums, symposiums and public hearings conducted by NTSB. The papers will describe the purpose of the event, the participants, and the topics covered by the event. The paper should include clear and concise statements of the areas of open discussion, topics identified for further analysis, conclusions reached, and any recommendations that were made as a result of the event.

NTSB Welcomes 4 New Employees



Jeffrey Cavanaugh, Special Assistant to Chairman-Designate Ellen Engleman Conners

Before coming to the Board Jeffery was a Senior Policy Advisor for Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety for the Department of Transportation. Prior to that he was the Assistant to the Secretary for Policy in the Office of the Secretary of Transportation, US Department of Transportation. Jeffrey has a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Illinois State University.



Gray Tate, Information Technology Specialist, RE

Gray comes to the Board as a former Systems Administrator for the US Army Intelligence and Security Command in Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Prior to that, he was a Network Administrator for Global Services. Gray has a Bachelor of Arts in Information System Management from the University of Maryland.



R. Nathaniel Hoyt, Transportation Assistant (Temp), SRC

Nathaniel has Bachelor of Science in Aerospace Studies from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. He is studying for his Masters in Aeronautical Science at Embry-Riddle, Andrews Air Force Base. He is currently a student volunteer in the Office of Safety Recommendations and Communications.



Jordy Spreen, Student (Temp)

Jordy is a Student Volunteer with the Office of Research and Engineering. He is a student at Delft University of Technology (Faculty of Aerospace Engineering, Department of Flight Mechanics and Propulsion) in the Netherlands. His expected date of graduation is December 2005.

Update on Most Wanted Safety Recommendations

More progress has been made on State adoption of Safety Recommendations.

- The Hawaii Legislature passed a graduated driver license bill which awaits the Governor's signature.
- The South Carolina primary safety belt bill has been reported to the House floor for vote and the Alaska primary belt bill passed all house committees and is awaiting a floor vote.
- Washington State Governor Gregoire will sign the mandatory boater education bill on May 11th.
- The Minnesota Personal Flotation Device bill took effect on May 5th, but a public signing ceremony will be scheduled for June.